

Healthy Yard-Clean Water

With all the snow and freezing temperatures that we are experiencing lately, it is hard to imagine that spring is just around the corner. But the crocus, daffodils and tulips will be peeking out very soon. Now is the time to start planning healthy landscaping practices. By properly caring for our lawns and gardens, we can save money and time, enhance our property value, and also protect the environment.

Healthy landscaping involves some simple landscaping practices that can improve the health and appearance of your lawn and garden while protecting and preserving natural resources. This is a preventative approach, which enlists the help of “Mother Nature.” By working with nature, you can have a great-looking yard that’s easier to care for, cheaper to maintain and healthier for families, pets, wildlife and the environment.

Composting For a Healthy Yard

Stop! Before you dump your twigs and leaves and other fall and winter lawn debris down the storm drain or in the landfill, consider this environmentally friendly idea. Start a compost pile or bin and leave your yard waste on your land. Composting is a simple, economical way to recycle your household scraps and yard trimmings into a nutritious meal for your soil and your landscape, not to mention the beneficial insects and microorganisms that will also feast on it.

Composting makes sense, because it keeps useful organic materials from filling up the local landfill. In some states, it is now against the law to put organic materials in the landfill, since they are relatively clean and biodegradable, and take up needed space. Another reason to compost is the reward of saving money by having a free soil enhancement, which can be used on your landscape, garden, or shared with your neighbor.

References: <http://www.purdue.edu>

Backyard Conservation, USDA-NRCS, NACD, Wildlife Habitat Council, (available on our website at www.summitswcd.org)